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3/11/3Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 004900-148

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
Evelyne PRAT et al) Group Art Unit: 1754
Application No.: 08/765,901) Examiner: S. Hendrickson
Filed: January 7, 1997) Confirmation No.: 6723
For: CONCENTRATED SUSPENSION)
PRECIPITATION SILICA, METHODS OF)
PREPARATION AND UTILISATION OF)
SAID SUSPENSION)

REPLY AND AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In complete response to the Official Action issued November 29, 2001, and further to the Notice of Appeal filed May 29, 2002, and the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and Request for Suspension of Action filed November 29, 2002, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 22, 28, 31-37, 39-45, and add new Claims 47-53, as follows:

22. (three times amended) An aqueous suspension consisting of precipitated silica, water and, optionally, an aluminum compound, said suspension having a solids content between 10 and 40% by weight, a viscosity lower than 4×10^{-2} Pa.s at a shear rate of $50 s^{-1}$ and wherein the amount of silica present in the supernatant obtained after centrifuging said suspension at 7500 revolutions per minute for 30 minutes represents more than 50 % of the weight of the silica present in the suspension.

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